(ii) In the event of failure of JV effort, action may taken for closure/winding up of the Company after offering safety net to the employees.

(iii) To provide budgetary support for liquidating the employees related dues and provision of need based non-plan budgetary support for payment of salary/wages to employees of NIL during 2002 or till JV formation/closure, whichever is earlier.

Governmenat have released funds for payment of salary/wages till July, 2002 and action is under way for locating JV partner.

CAG Report on CPSUs

539. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Public Sector Undertakings running in profit as per the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India during the last three years, company-wise;

(b) the number of CPSUs which have suffered losses during the last three years;

(c) whether the disinvestment is the only way of improving the profitability of Public Sector Enterprises;

(d) whether Government have any other innovative method; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) As per report No. 1 of 2002 of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India during 1998-99, 1999-2000 & 2000-01, the periods till which information is available, there are respectively 137, 132 & 142 Central Government Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) earning profit and 112, 118 & 115 PSUs incurring loss. Company-wise details of profits during the last three years are given in CAG report of 2002 which was laid in the Parliament during the Budget Session in the year, 2002.

(c) to (e) Enterprise specific steps are being taken by the concerned Administrative Ministries/Departments/Management of PSUs from time

to time to improve their performance which is a continuous process. Disinvestment of non-strategic PSUs, according to the declared policy of the Government, is one of the ways of improving their profitability. Some of the other steps taken include managerial & financial restructuring; upgradation of technology, modernization of plant and machinery, cost control measures, rationalization of manpower, improved marketing strategies, formation of Joint Ventures etc. as the case may be.

Abolition of Wage Board

540. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Newspaper Society has requested Government that the Wage Board should be abolished to reduce burden on newspaper establishments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Revival of commissioning of programme by Prasar Bharati

541. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether after a long gap, Prasar Bharati is getting back to the commissioning mode all over again;

(b) if so, whether this proposal to revive commission of programmes was put forward at the Prasar Bharati meeting recently;